

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

DECEMBER, 2015



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, rains fell sporadically during December in parts of the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea. In southeast Egypt, light rains fell on the coast near Abu Ramad. In Sudan, good rains fell in Tokar Delta, on the central and southern coast, and in the northeast interior. In Eritrea, light rain fell on the northern coast near Karora and on the central coast near Massawa. Vegetation was becoming green in all of these areas, especially on the coast and in the hills of northeast Sudan and southeast Egypt between Oseif and Halaib. In Saudi Arabia, light rain fell on the Red Sea coast between Masturah and Lith. Vegetation was becoming green in the valley north of Yemen and on the coastal plains south of Quinfidah. In Yemen, light rains fell at times on the Red Sea coast where vegetation was green. In the south, more vegetation became green in the interior and coastal areas of Hadhramaut from heavy rains associated with two cyclones in November. Light rains were reported in coastal areas of northwest Somalia during the last week of December, and vegetation was becoming green mainly near Lughaye. *(FAO DL bulletin No.447)*

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Unusually heavy rains, which fell on 6th December around Foro, south of the Port City of Massawa, on 14th and 15th December at Araita, in Tio sub-location and between 20th and 25th December in Ghindae sub-location, and the subsequent floods have caused heavy damage to infrastructural facilities (like roads, houses, bridges, crops and irrigation schemes). Deaths of people and hundreds of domestic animals were also reported in these areas. The report has also indicated that three thousand hectares of crops under cultivation were destroyed mainly around Foro.

Most crops and other groups of annual and perennial vegetation were green and greening in the northern and the southern Red Sea coastal areas of the country by the end of December. Soil was also wet, which has created favorable conditions for locust breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

Throughout December, no rainfall was reported in most parts of the country mainly in the Desert Locust winter breeding areas. Sunny and dry

weather conditions prevailed during the month and the temperature has increased.

Generally, groups of annual vegetation were dry and the perennials were green in areas where the Desert Locust winter breeding takes place.

1.4 Kenya

During the first and second dekads of December, moderate to heavy rains continued to fall across most parts of the country. The subsequent floods have also continued to cause havoc, where displacement of people and some infrastructural damage were reported in some location in the west and northwest parts of the country.

By the end of the month, perennial and annual vegetation remained green in vast areas of the country where rains fell.

1.5 Somalia

Generally, the weather and ecological conditions in the northwestern, northeastern and northern parts of the country remained dry during December. However, groups of vegetation in the northwest region including on the plateau and escarpments had partially improved and were greening to green.

1.6 Sudan

During December, medium to heavy rainfalls occurred in the winter breeding areas, mainly in Toker Delta, to the south along the central plains and on the northwest Red Sea Hills towards the Egyptian border.

Though, the vegetation status differs from one location to the other however, generally it was greening and green with medium densities. Consequently, these conditions will likely create better ecological conditions for the rapid development of the DL and possibly initiate an outbreak.

1.7 Tanzania

During December, light to heavy rainfalls occurred in most parts of the country and some deaths were reported in the Lake Victoria zone, which was caused by floods. Meanwhile, areas near Mount Kilimanjaro and Arusha region have received rains mainly towards the end of the month.

Vegetation was very green in most parts of the country, while it was greening in Arusha, Kilimanjaro and surrounding areas.

1.8 Uganda

The El-Nino rains started declining towards the end of the month in most parts of the Country. However, the National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) warned that the heavy rains will still continue till February 2016. The month of December was indicated as the peak of the el-Niño rains in most parts of the Country apart from Kampala.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

During December, Desert Locust situation remained calm and no locusts were found during a ground survey that was conducted by the PPD staff along the northern Red Sea coast of the country between Qrora and Hablketin (N175734/E382615) and the southern coast up to Seretay (N145269/E0412666), in Tio sub-location.

Most of the vegetation status in the above locations was also observed green during the survey period.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported.

2.5 Sudan

During December, Desert Locust (DL) situation remained calm. Ground survey operations were conducted by PPD staff in the main DL winter breeding areas along the Red sea coast. During the survey, only low densities of solitary locusts were

found in some of the river basins (Krimbit, Bahrara, Tonak) in Toker delta (1823N/3743E) and in Hanbokaib and Handoub in the central coastal Plains.

Situation in Other Regions and Forecast

(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 447)

Central Region: The situation remained calm during December. Scattered adults were present in a few places of the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast in Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Ecological conditions improved, mainly in northeast Sudan. Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase in these countries as well as in northern Eritrea and perhaps in southeast Egypt.

Western Region: Control operation continued during December in western Mauritania where an outbreak developed in the previous month. Infestations extended into northwest and northern Mauritania as well as adjacent areas of the Western Sahara in southern Morocco where breeding occurred and small groups of hoppers and adults formed. Ground teams treated 891 ha in Mauritania and 17 ha in Morocco during December. Small-scale breeding occurred in northern Mali and northern Niger where a few groups of hoppers and adults formed.

Eastern Region: The situation remained calm during December.

3.0 Forecast until mid-February, 2016

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Scattered adults are likely to appear on the Red Sea coastal plains and breed on a small scale, causing locust numbers to increase slightly between Sheib and Qrora.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Small scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly along the Red Sea coastal plains and in Wadi Oko/Diib.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

The countries are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestations.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

4.1 Red-billed Quelea birds (Queleaquelea sp.)

4.1.1 Kenya

During December, an estimated of 10.8 million Quelea birds were reported feeding on irrigated Rice in Kisumu East, Muhoroni, Nyakach and Nyando Sub-Counties. A DLCO-EA aircraft was positioned in the area to control the infestation however, due to some technical issues control was not conducted on time.

2.5 million birds in six roosts were also controlled by air during the month in Siaya County in collaboration with the PPSB of the Ministry of Agriculture.

4.1.2 Tanzania

No infestation reported.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Report of infestation not received.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Between 8th and 14th of December, aerial Quelea birds survey and control operations continued

mainly in 3 States, where the potential control operation took place in Alduwaim. Consequently, between 8th and 14th of the month, 69 Quelea roosting sites covering 1,425 ha were sprayed using 1,425 liters of Fenthion in Alduaim, White Nile and Kassala States. Total aircraft spray time was 19:08 hours.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

No infestation was reported in the region during December. Though, the short rain season has come to an end however, it is highly advisable to continue monitoring of armyworm appearances and migrations of moths in Kenya, eastern Uganda and northern Tanzania as the ecological conditions remained favorable.

4.3 Tsetse fly

4.3.1 Uganda

Incidences not reported.

CIFO

For Director,

08 January, 2016

For more information about the Organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website: www.dlcoea.org.et